Claims:

1. A building module having an exterior shape generally of a cuboid having side, end, top and bottom faces, and fabricated from metal, the module being hollow and defining a space of a size suitable for occupation by a person, the module including fastening elements to allow the module to be fastened to another adjacent module and to allow for engagement by standard load handling equipment for handling freight containers, wherein the module has an overall exterior width greater than 2700 mm and includes a first set of fastening elements in the region of a first end of the top of the module and a second set of fastening elements in the region of a second end of the top of the module, the fastening elements of each set including two fastening elements spaced apart from one another at a centre-to-centre spacing of about 2260 mm.

2. A building module according to claim 1, in which the two fastening elements are symmetrically positioned on opposite sides of a central vertical plane of the module.

3. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which each of the first and second sets of fastening elements comprises more than two fastening elements at locations spaced across the top of the module each fastening element being spaced from another fastening element at a centre-to-centre spacing of about 2260 mm.

4. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which each of the first and second sets of fastening elements includes fastening elements at the opposite side edges of the top of the module.

5. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which the first and second sets of fastening elements are provided at opposite ends of the container.

6. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which there are respective elongate members in the region of each of the eight edges of the cuboid and a plurality of

metal panels secured to at least some of the elongate members.

7. A building module according to claim 6, in which there are metal panels secured on all of the side and end faces of the cuboid.

8. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which there are metal panels secured on the top and bottom faces of the cuboid.

9. A building module according to claim 7 or 8, in which at least some of the metal panels are corrugated.

10. A building module according to any of claims 7 to 9, in which at least some of the panels are of composite construction and include insulating material.

11. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which one or each side face of the module is partly closed by a panel and is partly open.

12. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which one or each end face of the module is partly closed by a panel and is partly open.

13. A building module according to claim 11 or 12, in which the partly open face or one of the partly open faces extends from a region at the bottom of the face to a region at the top of the face.

14. A building module according to any of claims 11 to 13, in which the partly open face or one of the partly open faces extends upwardly from a region partway up the face.

15. A building module according to any preceding claim, including a kitchen pod containing kitchen fittings and occupying a minor part only of the interior volume of the module.

16. A building module according to any preceding claim, including a bathroom pod containing bathroom fittings and occupying a minor part only of the interior volume of the module.

17. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which the module includes fastening elements for fastening the module to an adjacent module placed alongside.

18. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which the module includes fastening elements for fastening the module to an adjacent module placed in end-to-end relationship.

19. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which the module includes fastening elements for fastening the module to an adjacent module placed immediately above or below.

20. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which at least some of the fastening elements are provided in the region of the eight corners of the module.

21. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which at least some of the fastening elements are defined by hollow blocks with openings through which connector elements can be inserted.

22. A building module according to claim 21, in which at least some of the fastening elements are provided with openings in their top, side and end faces, or bottom, side and end faces.

23. A building module according to claim 21 or 22, in which the connector elements and hollow blocks are arranged such that after a connector element has been inserted into an opening in a hollow block it can be fastened in the opening.

24. A building module according to claim 23, in which the connector elements and hollow blocks are arranged such that after a connector element has been inserted into an opening in a hollow block it can be fastened in the opening by a fastener entering the hollow block through another opening and engaging the connector element.

25. A building module according to claim 23 or 24, in which the connector elements are fastened in the hollow blocks by fasteners screw threadedly engaging the connector elements in the hollow blocks.

26. A building module according to any of claims 21 to 25, in which the connector elements include a connector element that has a first part for insertion into an opening in one

fastening element of one module and a second part for insertion into an opening in another fastening element of another module.

27. A building module according to any of claims 21 to 26, in which the connector elements include a connector element that has a first, second, third and fourth parts for insertion into openings in respective fastening elements of first, second, third and fourth modules.

28. A building module according to any of claims 21 to 26, in which the connector elements include a connector element that has eight parts, each for insertion into a respective opening in a fastening element of a respective one of eight modules.

29. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which additional fastening elements are provided partway along the bottom end edges of the module.

30. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which the overall exterior width of the module is in the range of 2700 mm to 5000 mm.

31. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which the overall length of the module is in the range of 6000 mm to 6100 mm.

32. A building module according to any of claims 1 to 30, in which the overall length of the module is in the range of 12100 mm to 12300 mm.

33. A building module according to any of claims 1 to 30, in which the overall length of the module is in the range of 13600 mm to 13800 mm.

34. A building module according to any preceding claim, in which the exterior of the module is fitted with a plurality of additional fastening elements for interfacing with an external wall cladding system and/or a roofing system.

35. A building module having an exterior shape generally of a cuboid having side, end, top and bottom faces, and fabricated from metal, the module being hollow and defining a space of a size suitable for occupation by a person, the

module including fastening elements to allow the module to be fastened to another adjacent module.

36. A building module according to claim 35, in which the overall exterior width of the module is in the range of 2350 mm to 2500 mm.

37. A building module according to claim 34 or 35, in which the overall exterior width of the module is in the range of 2350 mm to 3700 mm.

38. A building module according to any of claims 35 to 37, in which additional fastening elements are provided partway along the top end edges of the module.

39. A building module according to any of claims 35 to 38, further including any of the features of the building module according to claims 1 to 34.

40. A building module substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

41. A multiplicity of modules for fastening together to form part or all of a building, each module having an exterior shape generally of a cuboid having side, end, top and bottom faces, being hollow and defining a space suitable for occupation by a person.

42. A multiplicity of modules according to claim 41, the majority of the modules having a width which is approximately one, two or three times a given unit width.

43. A multiplicity of modules according to claim 41 or 42, the majority of the modules having a length which is approximately one, two, three, four or five times a given unit length.

44. A multiplicity of modules according to claim 43, in which at least one module has a length which is less than one fifth of the length of the longest module.

45. A multiplicity of modules according to any of claims 41 to 44, further including a foundation interface having a lower face for resting on foundations and an upper face carrying connector elements for engagement with fastening elements on modules to fasten the modules to the foundation interface.

46. A multiplicity of modules according to claim 45, in which the foundation interface is in the form of one or more rectangular rings.

47. A multiplicity of modules according to any of claims 41 to 46, further including an inter storey interface for placing between storeys of modules, the inter storey interface having a lower face carrying connector elements for engagement with fastening elements on modules in a storey immediately below the interface and having an upper face carrying connector elements for engagement with fastening elements on modules in a storey immediately above the interface.

48. A multiplicity of modules according to claim 47, in which the inter storey interface is in the form of one or more rectangular rings.

49. A multiplicity of modules according to any of claims 41 to 48, in which each module is according to any of claims 1 to 40.

50. A building including a multiplicity of modules according to any of claims 41 to 48, the modules being fastened together to form part or all of a building with aligned openings in adjacent walls of adjacent modules to allow a person to move from one module to another.

51. A building according to claim 50, including a plurality of modules fastened together in side-by-side relationship.

52. A building according to claim 50 or 51, including a plurality of modules fastened together in end-to-end relationship.

53. A building according to any of claims 50 to 52, in which there are a plurality of storeys of modules, the modules in one storey being fastened to modules in an adjacent upper and/or lower storey.

54. A method of constructing a building at a site, the method comprising the following steps:

fabricating a plurality of modules at a location remote from the site, each module being generally in the shape of a cuboid and including fastening elements,

transporting the fabricated modules to the site, and

fastening together the fastening elements of modules to connect the modules together with aligned openings in adjacent walls of adjacent modules to allow a person to move from one module to another.

55. A method according to claim 54, in which the fabricated modules are engaged by their fastening elements to secure them during the transporting step.

56. A method according to claim 54 or 55, in which the modules are engaged by their fastening elements to move them into their final positions at the site.

57. A method according to any of claims 54 to 56, in which the building that is constructed by the method is in accordance with any of claims 50 to 53.